

If you are interested in joining SQUISH's efforts to preserve and improve health services in Southeast Queens, contact Alyssa Aguilera at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc. at 212.244.4664 or [squish.info@gmail.com](mailto:squish.info@gmail.com)

Visit Our Website  
[squishcoalition.wordpress.com](http://squishcoalition.wordpress.com)

**SQUISH**

SOUTHEAST QUEENS UNITED  
IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHCARE



Become part of our efforts!  
Contact: [squish.info@gmail.com](mailto:squish.info@gmail.com)

**SQUISH**



**SOUTHEAST QUEENS  
UNITED IN SUPPORT  
OF HEALTHCARE**

Advocates for Health Justice

Get involved!  
Contact: [squish.info@gmail.com](mailto:squish.info@gmail.com)

**SOUTHEAST QUEENS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHCARE (SQUISH) WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

## **WHAT IS SQUISH?**

Founded in 2006, the mission of Southeast Queens United in Support of Healthcare (SQUISH) is to strengthen existing healthcare services in the community by raising community awareness about issues that affect the delivery of services and advocating against the reduction and removal of critical health services in Southeast Queens. SQUISH is comprised of residents and community-based organizations from Southeast Queens as well as from legal services and advocacy allies from around the city.

## **GOALS**

Some of SQUISH's goals include:

- Assessing healthcare needs of Southeast Queens and monitoring health services that are currently provided
- Advocating for increased primary care services, inpatient beds and emergency room capacity
- Monitoring and responding to policies/practices of the state Department of Health that impact our area
- Promoting community involvement in healthcare planning decision-making

## **SOUTHEAST QUEENS FACTS**

- Southeast Queens has the lowest ratio of doctors to population in the borough. There are only 48 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care doctors per 100,000 population in Southeast Queens compared to 132 FTE's per 100,000 in the Flushing/Clearview area.
- Southeast Queens is surrounded by water to the south and the LIRR to the north, isolating it geographically from major health facilities and prohibiting the ill from timely access to services, especially emergency situations – not to mention numerous residents in Jamaica who depend on public transportation.
- The federal government has designated South Jamaica as a “medically underserved area” with a “health professional shortage.”
- Recent data for Community District 12 show:
  - deaths from diabetes are 55% higher than the NYC average; hospitalizations 35% higher
  - there is the highest rate of deaths from HIV, and second-highest rate of deaths from diabetes in the entire Queens borough
  - there is the highest prevalence of asthma among adults and the second-highest rate of asthma-related hospitalizations of children in the entire Queens borough

## **SQUISH's PAST ACTIVITIES**

Some of SQUISH's past activities include:

- Advocating to preserve critical community healthcare services at Mary Immaculate Hospital.
- Speaking with agency administrators and elected officials to ensure that state- and federally-funded grant money for healthcare services was directed toward supporting and strengthening vital healthcare services in Southeast Queens.
- Responding to the State Department of Health white paper on the state of healthcare in Queens by clarifying information regarding the healthcare crisis in Southeast Queens.
- Submitting documents, providing testimony and collecting letters of support around the need for quality healthcare services in Southeast Queens.
- Engaging and persuading elected officials to create a long-term plan for strengthening primary care services, inpatient beds and emergency room capacity in Southeast Queens.